

In the Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Canceled).

41. (Currently amended) A method of providing an electronic calendar-driven application, comprising:

creating time-dependent calendar events on an electronic calendar, the calendar events being organized according to a multi-level hierarchy comprising time-independent context events at an upper level of the hierarchy and time-independent specific events at a lower level of the hierarchy, wherein zero or more specific events may be scheduled on the electronic calendar during any particular context event; ~~and~~

interrogating the calendar events created for a user to provide information about the user; and

detecting an incoming electronic mail message or an instant message for the user, and wherein the interrogating further comprises:

determining whether the user's electronic calendar indicates that he is currently available for checking his electronic mail or available for instant messaging, and if not, generating an automated response informing a sender of the electronic mail message or the instant message of the user's current status using a currently-active context event for the user and, for particular context events, any currently-active specific event for the user, wherein a level of detail provided in the automated response varies, based on an identification of a sender of the incoming electronic mail message or instant message.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, further comprising automatically applying a default context during calendar periods when no other context event is active.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, further comprising:

detecting an incoming voice call for the user; and

wherein the interrogating further comprises:

generating, if the user does not answer the incoming voice call, an automated response informing a caller making the incoming voice call of the user's current status using a currently-active context event for the user and, for particular context events, any currently-active specific event for the user.

45. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, further comprising:

receiving a request for project management information; and

wherein the interrogating interrogates the calendar events created for a plurality of users to provide information about the context events and specific events scheduled for the users at a target date and a target time period, and further comprising:

generating a response informing a requester of the project management information of the information for the users at the target date and the target time period using a result of the interrogating.

46. (Original) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the request asks whether any team member is available at a particular location during a particular time period on a particular date.

47. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein zero or more attribute values may be specified for each of the context events and each of the specific events.

48. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the interrogating further comprises interrogating the specified attributes of a context event and of any specific event that are applicable to a target date and a target time or target time period.

49. (Canceled).

50. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein zero or more attribute values may be specified for each of the context events and each of the specific events and further comprising:

detecting an incoming voice call for the user; and

wherein the interrogating further comprises:

generating, if the user does not answer the incoming voice call, an automated response informing a caller making the incoming voice call of the user's current status using a currently-active context event for the user, the specified attributes of the currently-applicable context event, any currently-active specific event for the user, and the specified attributes of any currently-applicable specific event.

51. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein zero or more attribute values may be specified for each of the context events and each of the specific events and further comprising:

receiving a request for project management information for a target date and a target time period; and

wherein the interrogating interrogates the calendar events created for a plurality of users at the target date and the target time period to provide information about the context events and specific events scheduled for the users, the specified attributes of currently-applicable context events, and the specified attributes of any currently-applicable specific events, and further comprising:

generating a response informing a requester of the project management information of the information for the users using a result of the interrogating.

52. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein default attribute values may be specified for context event types and for specific event types, and wherein a particular context event and/or a particular specific event may include attribute values which override the default attribute values.

53. (Original) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the attribute values include information on how to immediately contact the user.

54. (Original) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the attribute values include information on an alternative contact person for the user.

55. (Original) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the attribute values include whether, and how often, the user checks electronic mail messages.

56. (Original) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the attribute values include whether, and how often, the user checks voice mail messages.

57. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the interrogating further comprises interrogating a specific event that is applicable to a target date and a target time or target time period.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the interrogating further comprises analyzing selected ones of the specific events for the user.

60. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein interrogating further comprises analyzing selected ones of the context events for the user.

61. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 47, wherein the interrogating further comprises analyzing selected ones of the attribute values for the user.